

Reba Nissen

Experience

- Reba Nissen has been the In-Home Care and Prevention Specialist for Utah's Division of Child and Family Services since 1998.
- As a program specialist, Reba has been involved in the design and ongoing development of the Practice Model, the Functional Assessment Field Guide, and the Qualitative Case Review protocol. Reba served as a Practice Model Facilitator in the Uintah Basin. She is a certified reviewer for the Child Welfare Policy and Practice Group and Child and Family Services Qualitative Case Review and for the Federal Children's Bureau Child and Family Services Review. She has worked with the In-Home Steering Committee to revise the Home and Community-Based Family Preservation and Support policy. Reba has facilitated working agreements between Child and Family Services and community partners as an approach to conflict resolution. Reba manages two federal prevention grants and two state funded prevention grants.
- Since beginning work with Child and Family Services in 1994, Reba has gained skills in Family Preservation, Interagency Collaboration, Community-Based Prevention, training and mentoring for foster families, and placement of children in foster and adoptive homes.
- Reba began working with youth and families in 1991 for a wilderness therapy program in Southern Utah. With Sequoia Wilderness Institute, she worked as a field counselor, living in the field for 20 days at a time, teaching wilderness skills and life skills and providing support to youth, ages 12 to 17 years. She also worked for a brief time as a family liaison, meeting individually with youth in the field for three days each week and then calling parents weekly to help families plan for reunification at the end of the 60-day program.
- Reba was a research associate at the University of Utah Graduate School of Social Work. She conducted 40 interviews with women over 65 years of age who were living at or below the poverty level in five sites nationwide and contributed a chapter to the book *Older Women in Poverty: Public Policy, Private Lives* (Barusch, 1993).
- Reba can tile a bathroom, knit a sweater, strip an electrical panel, bake a loaf of bread, identify birds, canoe and kayak rivers and lakes, sing a madrigal, ski and snowshoe in the backcountry, and make origami cranes and boxes. Reba collects anything related to faeries and elves.

Education

B.A. in Comparative Sociology from the University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington
Two years post-graduate work in Sociology at the University of Utah